

## **Consultation on a proposal to expand the specialist education provided currently by Eaton Hall School, Norwich using the premises recently vacated by Church Hill First School and Pott Row First School**

In September 2011 a new school, Holly Meadows, will open in Vong Lane to provide primary education for pupils aged 4 – 11 from the local community.

The buildings previously occupied by Church Hill First School and Pott Row First School belong to the Grimston Schools Trust and are leased by Norfolk County Council. The Trust specifies that the buildings should be used for educational purposes.

We are proposing to use these buildings in order to extend the specialist education provided currently by Eaton Hall School in Norwich, for the benefit of children in the western half of the county.

Eaton Hall School in south Norwich is a residential school, judged Outstanding by Ofsted, which caters for boys aged 7 to 16 who are diagnosed as having Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD).

For some time, the Local Authority has wanted to increase the number of places available for children with BESD, and to enable children in the western half of the County to access this provision close to home.

What are we proposing?

On the Church Hill site: an expansion of Eaton Hall School to provide daytime specialist education for boys and girls aged 5 – 11 with BESD

On the Pott Row site: an expansion of Eaton Hall School to provide daytime specialist education for boys aged 11-14 with BESD

### **Why do we need this facility?**

At the present time, the only specialist facility within the county for boys with BESD is at Eaton Hall School in Norwich. For girls, there is no provision at all, and in some cases, it has been necessary to place girls in residential schools outside the county.

We know that early intervention is the most effective way to help children with BESD overcome their difficulties, and yet there is currently no provision for the youngest children.

We believe that this is an opportunity to build upon the excellent work being done by Eaton Hall School to ensure access to outstanding specialist provision for children in the western half of Norfolk.

### **How big would the schools be?**

It is anticipated that initially there would be two classes of 5-6 children on the Church Hill site (Key Stages 1 and 2), with the potential to expand to a maximum of 18. A similar number of children would be accommodated on the Pott Row site.

### **Would the existing schools need to be extended?**

It would not be necessary to extend the existing buildings. We may seek to make a few interior alterations with the prior approval of the Grimston Schools Trust. Any structural change to the buildings would be subject to planning rules and building regulations.

### **How would the schools be governed?**

Both sites will be “satellite” provision of Eaton Hall School, under the governance and leadership of the school.

### **Who would be responsible on a day to day basis?**

The proposal is to appoint an assistant headteacher of Eaton Hall School who will be permanently based in Grimston and will run both sites. In addition, there would be a teacher and 2 support staff for each of the small classes (maximum 5-6 children).

### **Where would the children come from?**

Eaton Hall School is a county-wide facility. However, the majority of the children who would be based in Grimston are likely to come from the western half of the County, and live within a 45 minute taxi ride of the schools.

### **What would this mean for school transport and traffic?**

All the children attending this satellite provision would come by taxi, and would be escorted onto and off the school premises. At Church Hill, the taxis would use the playground for turning and waiting. At Pott Row, we would seek an arrangement similar to that which was negotiated with the First School, to use the car park at the village hall.

### **What would it cost to establish and run this facility?**

Any alterations to the buildings would be funded by money already set aside for the Special Educational Needs Strategy Project. The running costs would be covered by the savings that would be made as a result of needing fewer expensive out of county placements for children with BESD.

### **Who will make the final decision and when would the change happen?**

After this consultation ends on 21 October 2011, Norfolk County Council will decide whether to proceed with these changes. If they decide to go ahead, by law we have to publish a statutory notice. The County Council will be seeking to:

- Alter the lower age limit of Eaton Hall School (to include KS1 pupils)
- Increase the number of places available at Eaton Hall School from 40 to 76
- Enlarge the physical capacity of the school by using the accommodation vacated by Church Hill First and Pott Row First
- Change the gender to include girls at KS1 + KS2

People would then have a further six weeks to write to us either supporting or opposing the proposal.

Norfolk County Council will then make the final decision as to whether or not to implement the proposal.

The earliest that any change could take place would be for the Summer Term 2012.

### **How can I learn more about the proposal and have my say?**

**Come and talk to us:** There will be a meeting for parents/carers and members of the community on

**6th October 2011 at 6pm at Holly Meadows School**

You can also tell us your views online at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/schoolorganisation) or by using the attached form. **We need all responses by 21 October 2011.** You can also email your response to [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk)

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact 01603 223480.

Thank you for your interest.



If you need this leaflet in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact

Tel: 01603 223480

Fax: 01603 222119

Textphone: 0344 800 8011

Email: [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk) and we will do our best to help.



## Public consultation – have your say

**We are proposing to expand the specialist education provided currently by Eaton Hall School in Norwich using the premises recently vacated by Church Hill First School and Pott Row First School, for the benefit of children in the western half of the county.**

There is an electronic version of this reply form on the website

[www.norfolk.gov.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/schoolorganisation)

We will summarise the responses and place them on this website at the end of the consultation period.

### Do you agree with our proposal?

Yes

☐

No

☐

Please give your main reasons for your answer.

Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make to help us with this decision to extend the specialist education provision currently provided by Eaton Hall School in Norwich, for the benefit of children in the western half of the county?

Are there any alternatives that should be considered?

(Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

## Please tell us who you are:

Tick box:

☐

I am a pupil

Which school? .....

☐

I am the parent/guardian of a pupil

Which school? .....

☐

I am a member of staff

Which school? .....

☐

I am a school governor

Which school? .....

☐

None of the above

Please give other connections/interest (eg local resident, member of Parent Teacher Association, local sports group or business).

.....

First name: .....Last name: .....  
(You don't have to tell us if you don't want to)

Your address: .....

Postcode: .....

Your comments will be anonymous and your name or anything that could identify you will not be included in any report. However, we cannot guarantee that this information will be withheld if it is requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

Your views will help County Council Cabinet Members to make a decision about the future of schooling in this area. This consultation ends on **21 October 2011**.

Please return by 21 October via your local school or post to:

Eaton Hall School Consultation, FREEPOST, IH 2076, Room 20, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp. You can also email your response to [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk)